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MEMORIAL OF JUDGE W. W. CRUMP BY THE BAR ASSOCIATION OF RICHMOND, VA.

"A great public bereavement, in which the bar and bench of the city of Richmond participate with a peculiar grief, gathers us together. In the providence of Almighty God the oldest of our associates has been removed from us by death, and with mournful hearts we assemble to express, so far as words may be adequate, our appreciation of the loss which we have sustained.

"Judge William Wood Crump was born in this city in November, 1819, and his long and honored life of more than seventy-seven years has been identified with its people. He came to the bar in the first year of his majority, after a preparatory course of study in William and Mary College, the Law School of which institution was then conducted by the Hon. N. Beverley Tucker, an eminent member of an eminent race of Virginia jurists. At that time the bar of this city, though much smaller in number than at present, contained among the members many of the most distinguished men whose names adorn the legal history of Virginia. Judge Crump was at once recognized as the peer of the most brilliant of the younger members who constituted its junior contingent. His future eminence was foreshadowed by the early acquisition of a remunerative practice. In 1851 he was elected by the Legislature of Virginia as judge of the Circuit Court of the city of Richmond, and he held that office for the brief interval of a few months until the reorganization of the courts by the popular election of judges under the Constitution of 1850.

"Not being a candidate for re-election, he resumed his position at the bar. With the exception of this brief judicial service, and his engagement during the war in the civil service of the Confederate States, he continued in the active practice of his profession from his admission in 1841 up to the date of his death, and for many years had been the Nestor of the metropolitan bar of Virginia. He loved his profession and honored it, and his associates in its pursuit loved and honored him.

"Judge Crump's short judicial experience gave earnest of his possession of all the qualifications requisite to constitute an eminent and successful judge, but the active practice of a counsellor and advocate was more congenial to his taste, and in that capacity he won his high reputation and conceded pre-eminence. As a counsellor he was careful and judicious, and the wisdom of his advice was vindicated by success in settling controversies out of court or in foreshadowing the result of litigation in the courts.

"As an advocate it is difficult to speak of him in measured terms. He possessed to an extraordinary extent so many of the qualities which are requisite for a just appreciation of the responsibilities and an efficient and successful discharge of the duties of a conscientious and fearless advocate that the effort to particularize them all hazards failure in the portrait by the omission of some of the features essential to its symmetry. It might suffice to say that he was recognized by every court and every jury before which he appeared as a great lawyer, and the

traditions which will be handed down by those who were privileged to witness his forensic triumphs will vie with those of any of the past luminaries of the Virginia bar, which loving and admiring contemporaries have perpetuated to our day.

"But we cannot forbear to mention his unswerving fidelity to his clients, his tenacious and courageous insistence upon every point of defence, his acute perception of the minutest defect in adversary testimony, his forcible presentation of every plausible theory favorable to his client, his comprehensive examination of his own witnesses and his wonderful facility in cross-examination, in extorting the truth from unwilling and in exposing the malice or false testimony of unscrupulous witnesses. All this blended with a courtesy and *bonhomie*, which in the fiercest contentions at the bar left no sting behind, contributed to make him *facile princeps* as an advocate before the juries of the country, especially in criminal cases of the gravest moment.

"We may not content ourselves, however, with simply adverting to his professional attainments and success. Assiduous as he was in the prosecution of his profession he was not unmindful of or indifferent to his obligations as a citizen. In his early life his diversions into the political field and his frequent appearance in the advocacy of public measures and discussion of grave questions upon which the people were arrayed in political parties, brought him frequently before the public eye and contributed no little to the successes of his political friends. He never lost his interest in these matters, though in later years he rarely appeared before the people as a political speaker. As a native and life-long resident of Richmond, he always looked jealously to every thing affecting her prosperity, and was recognized among her people as among her most public-spirited and valuable citizens. In her City Council and in the Legislature of Virginia it was his privilege for several years to render her the most efficient and appreciated service. He was a devoted son of Virginia, and in the trying exigencies of the war he was enthusiastically with her people in sympathy and action. As Assistant Secretary of the Treasury he was a valued and valuable officer of the Confederate States. But his brethren mourn the loss of their departed friend, not solely because of their appreciation of his high gifts and powers, or of their pride in his professional success. The personal association which they have been permitted to enjoy through these many years leaves in the hearts of all thus privileged "memories pleasant and mournful to the soul," which will long survive his death. None of his junior brethren ever did or ever can forget the unvarying kindness with which he welcomed them to the bar and facilitated their advancement. Nor can any forget the charm of his conversation and the magnetism of his presence in every social gathering. Few men were more familiar than he with history and literature, and his excellent taste and tenacious memory had stored up in his mind a mass of the most instructive and entertaining information.

"With remarkable powers for graphic narrative and apt illustration, a ready wit and playful fancy, and a vein of quiet humor, he drew upon this store-house to the delight of all with whom he held converse. He had the highest sense of personal honor and a withering scorn for everything mean or base. His heart was full of the gentlest sympathy and tenderest affections, and his friendships were firm and lasting. With an open hand he was always ready to respond to the utmost of his capacity to every call for charity or appeal for contributions to worthy objects of public interest. This noble gentleman, this exemplary citizen,

this loyal Virginian, this great lawyer, has passed from us forever, leaving behind with all who knew him the fragrance of a well-spent life and to the bar of Virginia the heritage of a well-earned fame. We go hence to unite with a sorrowing community in the last sad offices around the open grave, and in committing his body to the bosom of his mother State we give in charge another peer of her great of other days, now held in holy keeping, than whom no son of hers was truer.

“Resolved, That we assemble at the City Hall and attend his funeral in a body.

“Resolved, That a copy of this tribute be sent by the secretary to the family of the deceased and be published in the city papers and the VIRGINIA LAW REGISTER and that it be presented to the Court of Appeals and the other courts, Federal and State, meeting in our city, with a request that it be spread upon their order books.

“Resolved, That the chairman be requested to designate some member of the bar to present the proceedings of this meeting to each of these courts.”